



# Headlines

March 2010



## PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

While the winter has continued to be hard, I am pleased to report that there has been little disruption to school life with the exception of frozen pitches preventing some sporting fixtures.

After a good run, our 1<sup>st</sup> XI exited the Schools' Hockey Cup at Quarter Finals stage and the 1<sup>st</sup> XV lost to Ballymena Academy in the Schools' Cup Rugby. Our footballers have played a number of matches as part in league and cup fixtures. We were delighted to see our Medallion XV defeat CAI handsomely on Saturday, thus qualifying for the final of the Medallion Plate Competition at Ballymena on **Saturday 20 March, kick off 10.30 am.**

It has been decided to postpone the Spring Concert, scheduled for 24 March. This will now be presented as a Music for May event on Wednesday 5 May and I hope many of you will be able to attend to support this valuable aspect of School Life.

We were delighted recently to host a visit from visitors from Kenya. Our links with Kenya stretch over ten years and already plans are well afoot for a group to visit in 2011. We have also enjoyed the company of our exchange partners from France.

Staff have continued to engage in relevant in-service training with a focus on pastoral care and teaching and learning.

Between 12-16 April we will host a visit from Education and Training Inspectorate (the school inspectors!) who will conduct a Standard Inspection of Limavady Grammar School. This will give us an opportunity to celebrate the many aspects of good work here at school and we look forward to being given guidance on how we might do some things better. Parents and pupils, sampled by ETI, will be included in the consultations and I would encourage you all to share your confidence, and indeed, your concerns about our school with the inspectorate.

We look forward to our final assembly on 26 March when we will welcome Richard Archibald, Irish Olympic Oarsman, to present our Colours for Music, Drama and Sport.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed Easter.

*R Wilson (Principal)*

## SUMMER UNIFORM

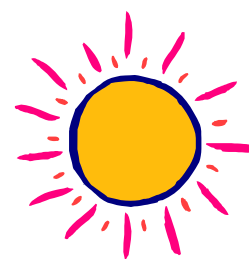
**Summer uniform is optional from 18 March until end of June.**

### *Girls*

- White  $\frac{3}{4}$  length sleeve school blouse with school crest
- Navy slipover with school crest

### *Boys*

- White short sleeve school shirt with school crest
- Navy slipover with school crest
- *Blazers may be worn to and from school but are not part of the summer uniform.*



## SENIOR FRENCH EXCHANGE – 4-12 FEBRUARY

On the fourth of February, a group of eleven Year 13 students left on our French exchange visit to Cluses, a small town in the French Alps. The exchange had been planned months in advance and all the students taking part couldn't wait to get a taste of life in France and to meet their exchange partners. Feeling rather nervous and after a long day's travelling, we met our host families in the evening and got ready for our first night in France.

Friday the fifth saw all of us back in school with stories of our first nights. Nobody had had any problems and everybody began to settle very quickly. Although the treasure hunt had to be cancelled on the first day due to heavy snow, we got to visit a French restaurant, ask some questions to the chef about French cuisine and even taste some cheese – “à mon avis, c'était délicieux!”

Before we knew it, the weekend was upon us and we were alone with our families for a full two days. Some went shopping, saw French films, met up with each other, but others, including myself, got to go skiing. On a sunny day, the ski slopes were spectacular and although our partners seemed to be near professional standard, we did our best to keep up and enjoyed every second of it.

When Monday came, everyone was excited about going to Chamonix and, true enough, it was completely breathtaking.



A train took us up to see La Mer de Glace and the views were like nothing else in the world. Even shopping in the town afterwards was an unreal experience as, whenever you lifted your head, your gaze was directed towards Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe.

On Tuesday and Wednesday students got a taste of lessons in a French school, visited a metal parts factory (typical of the region), visited the town hall for a reception with the mayor and went sledging on Wednesday with our French partners. Time was flying and now there was only one full day left, Thursday, when we visited the United Nations Building and toured Geneva, a very wealthy and historical city.

Everybody had had an amazing week, appreciating how lucky we were to have connections with this beautiful part of the world. We all noticed an improvement in our French too and some of us were even able to have normal conversations with our partners.

Friday came all too soon – friendships had been made all round and, although it would be good to be back home, most of us would happily have stayed in Cluses for a while longer, enjoying the time with our partners and taking in more of the region. Goodbyes had to be said though, tears seemed to be held back but we all knew that it would be less than a month until we met again in Limavady.

The exchange was one of the best weeks of my life and, on behalf of myself and all the exchange students, I would like to say “*un grand merci*” to Mr Sampson for organising the exchange and also to Mrs McCluskey for aiding the smooth running of the trip. All that's left to say is “*Vive la France!*”

*Carl Mulholland (Year 13)*

## COMENIUS

Between 18 and 22 May this year our Comenius group will play host to students from Holland, Germany and Italy. These students have been working on energy issues and the school would be very keen to offer our visiting students the opportunity to stay with local families. If you would be willing to host one or two 16 to 18 year old Dutch, German or Italian student(s) please contact Mr Handforth.

## CHARITY NEWS

### *Rolos for St Valentine's Day*

The Charity Committee would like to thank everyone who took part in this event. A staggering eight hundred and five Rolos were delivered for Valentine's Day this year, raising £335 for the Chest Heart and Stroke Association.

### *Hats for Haiti!*

The recent events in Haiti have led many in our school community to feel that we should do something to help. We would like everyone in school to join us and "*wear a hat for Haiti*" on **Tuesday 16 March** and donate at least **£1**.

*Mrs J Mills*

## FRENCH DEBATERS WIN THROUGH TO FINAL

Congratulations to our A-Level French Debating Team of Emma McMullan, Laura Ross and Kristoffer Wright (Year 14) and Daniel Simpson (Year 13) who recently defeated Foyle and Londonderry College in a closely-contested semi-final to win through to the final of the Northern Ireland A-Level French Debating Competition for the second successive year.

The motion for the semi-final was « *La tendance actuelle à se faire des amis virtuels sur la toile a plus d'inconvénients que d'avantages* » (the current trend of making virtual friends on the web has more disadvantages than advantages), and this provoked a lively and entertaining debate as neither team wanted to be knocked-out at the semi-final stage. Particular congratulations go to our team captain, Emma McMullan, who was judged best overall speaker, the second time she has picked up this award this season.

The final will be held at the University of Ulster on Wednesday 24 March where our opponents will be Methodist College, Belfast.

*Mr I Sampson*

## LOOKING FOR A HOST FAMILY

Hello. My name is Esther, I'm 14 years old and I live in Cluses in the French Alps.

In my family, I have two brothers who are older than me and who don't live at home any more. My Dad is a teacher in the junior school and my Mum is Vice-Principal in the senior school.

Ever since I was very young, I have lived away from France – for seven years in French Guiana and for four years in Egypt. I like the sun and warm weather. I have lived in Cluses for a year and a half.

This year I have just started in senior school and I'm learning English and Spanish.

I love animals, especially horses, dogs and cats. I enjoy several sports, particularly snowboarding and judo and I also like volleyball, badminton, gymnastics and swimming. I read a lot, I listen to music (not classical!), I like the cinema and the theatre.

I would like to meet a family with a child of my age who could host me for two weeks in June this year. In return, I could host my partner (if he/she would like to visit my country) in September – he/she could come to my school and share my hobbies.

Thank you for reading my letter.

*Esther Mousny*

*If any pupil/family would be interested in hosting Esther in June this year, please speak to Mr Sampson for further details as soon as possible.*

## FIRE SAFETY



Mr Ivor Ramsay, Crew Commander from the Crescent Link Fire Station, Londonderry, discusses safety awareness with Year 9 pupils as part of their personal Development Programme.

He alerts them to fire safety issues and the dangers and consequences of arson in the local community.

*Mrs J McCluskey*

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS IN LGS - 4 MARCH 2010

Two Limavady Grammar pupils, pictured here with Mr Wilson, Principal, have recently achieved success in very different activities.

Daniel Reid (6U) recently competed for a combined Ireland and Ulster team against England, Scotland and Wales in the UK Indoor Under 20 Super Team Championships in Glasgow. Daniel got his season off to a flying start when he won his heat in the 400m and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in one of two semi-finals. He was the top finishing of the three Irish competitors making a significant contribution to the overall team points.



Eilish Kelly (also 6U) was one of a number of young people from schools in the North-West and the only pupil from Limavady Grammar to receive The Pope John Paul II Award in a ceremony which took place in the Millenium Forum on Monday night. The award is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope who had a great affinity for young people. It recognises the involvement and contribution made by them in the life of their parish and community.

*Mr J Calwell*

## SWIMMING CLUB

On Thursday 11 March over fifty pupils turned out, as usual, for Swimming Club, but this week was to be no ordinary swimming week. Instead of wearing the usual old swim gear, everybody turned out in their pyjamas. The reason for this being that it was survival week. On the previous week many of the pupils taking part had done the same procedure except in their normal swimming gear. The procedure took place as follows: firstly in our pyjamas, of course the group, including myself, had to swim four widths of the pool and then tread water for two minutes. I you think that sounds easy, then try doing it twice in your pyjamas! Following that, each person received a float to put in to practise the H E L P (Heat Escape Lessoning Position) this position can keep you alive for just over four hours in freezing cold water. It is done by holding your float into your chest and curling your whole body into a ball with your knees held tight to your chest and lying on your back.

Overall, the whole session was a success and everyone enjoyed it immensely. On behalf of the other swimmers, I would like to thank Miss Doherty and Miss Johnston for organising the Swimming Club and making it such a success.

*Scott McLean (Year 9)*

## KENYAN VISITORS FROM KAJIADO

On Tuesday 2 March it was our pleasure to welcome Mr Daniel Taama and Revs Naphtali Lemooke, Eric Salonka, Mary Kuria and James Njoroge to our morning assembly. They later spent time visiting the Geography and Technology departments before enjoying a refreshing walk in the Roe Valley Country Park. This was followed by a very useful meeting with staff and local community representatives where ideas for the continuing partnership between the school and Kajiado diocese were explored. An evening meal was served in the local R P Church hall where friendships were renewed with some of the 2008 Kenyan team members and their parents. A particular highlight was the dancing and singing of our visitors, whose happy and energetic performance won the hearts of everyone.



The team hoping to travel to Kenya in 2011 later joined us and they, too, are now eagerly looking forward to their trip where it is hoped to continue building work on the girls' boarding school.

Our thanks go to all who provided food, hospitality and accommodation for the Kenyans on this short visit. As one parent commented, "It was just such a privilege to have these godly men in our home".

The visit was a reminder of how appreciative the folks in Kajiado are of all the support our community has shown them over the past ten years. Look out for the next fund raising event – **a fashion show by 'Chic' and 'Victor's' at 58 Seacoast Road on Saturday 20 March at 7.30 pm.** The annual sponsored walk is planned for Saturday 24 April. We look forward to your continued support.

*Mrs A Dunwoody*

### WALKING FOR SCHOOLS – KAJIADO PROJECT

Walking for Schools annual sponsored walk from Eglinton to Limavady will take place on **Saturday 24 April 2010.** It is hoped that many of the Year 8 pupils will take part and that parents will support us in this venture.

*Mr B Dunwoody*

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

*The Annual Fundraising Draw will be held early in the summer term. The support of all parents and friends in this in the past has been much appreciated.*

The Parents' Association is pleased to host a meeting for all parents on **Tuesday 27 April 2010 at 7 pm** in the school. A number of staff will provide guidance on how parents can best support their children's learning. This should be a useful meeting for all parents, especially those with children in Years 8-11.

Following the meeting, The Parents' Association will hold its AGM. Further details will be available later.

*R Wilson (Principal)  
P Jack (Parents' Association Chairman)*

## **SCHOOL CLOSURE DATES**

St Patrick's Day: Wednesday 17 March 2010  
Easter Holiday: Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April 2010 (inclusive).  
May Day Holidays: Monday 3 May and Monday 31 May 2010.

School closes for Easter on **Friday 26 March at 12 noon**. The Londonderry bus will be in the school grounds at **12.05** and leave school at **12.10 pm**.

**School re-opens on Monday 12 April 2010 at 8.55 am.**

## **CYBERBULLYING**

One of the areas of great concern for many of us is the increase in cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is the use of phones or the internet to deliberately upset someone else. Examples of this are threats, harassment, the repeatedly sending unwanted or nasty messages or images. Cyberbullies often impersonate others. The cyberbully often passes information or is the person who passes the message/image on to someone else. The excuse for cyberbullying that we often hear is "It was only a joke." It isn't a joke for the victim.

Like other educational institutions in Northern Ireland, Limavady Grammar School is not immune for this type of abuse. Recently, the Pastoral Team has had to deal with the inappropriate use of mobile phones to text and to distribute photographs. A new area for concern is the increase in bullying the messages transmitted through *Xbox Live*. (X box incidentally has become a worrying preoccupation for many of our pupils.)

Last month a member of the PSNI gave a talk to our Heads of Year about the social and legal implications of cyberbullying. I hope that the content of his summary might be interesting to you as we all strive to keep our children safe.

*Mr N Handforth*

## **USE IT, DON'T ABUSE IT! (from the PSNI)**

A reminder for parents about mobile phones and computers.

Sending or mailing malicious or abusive calls or text messages is a criminal offence under section 43 of the Telecommunications Act 1984.

This includes sending by those means, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety to another, a message that he/she knows to be false or persistently makes use for that purpose of a public telecommunication system shall be guilty of an offence.

The police may also investigate suspected offences involving "Threats", "Harassment", "Intimidation", "Indecent images" or other sexual offences.

Every text, video, message or e-mail sent has an electronic signature attached to it, which refers either to that mobile number or computer. A fictitious e-mail address, pay as you go phone or blocking your number may not stop the call, text, video or message being traced.

What is considered a prank, fun or a bit of craic may be viewed completely differently by another person. It is their feelings that count, not the senders.

The police may have to seize your phone, your computer, or parent's computer. You may be prosecuted/convicted in court. You may be placed on the sex offender's register.

Any warning, caution or conviction which relates to any offence which is sexual in nature, contains dishonesty or violence may still be disclosed to a prospective employer years after it has occurred.

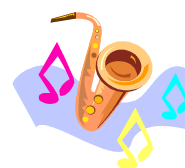
**PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE YEARS 8-14 (24 January – 11 March 2010)**

8V	97.5	9V	93.5	10V	95.6	11V	93.4	12V	96.2	YR 13	94.1
8W	98.0	9W	94.9	10W	96.1	11W	95.7	12W	94.0	YR 14	89.7
8X	97.3	9X	93.7	10X	95.4	11X	92.4	12X	93.9		
8Y	94.7	9Y	97.0	10Y	97.6	11Y	95.7	12Y	94.6		
8Z	97.7	9Z	95.5	10Z	96.7	11Z	93.4	12Z	94.5		

**Congratulations to pupils in 8W – this Form Class scored 98%, the highest percentage attendance during this period.**



## Limavady Grammar School



You are invited to attend our



# MUSIC FOR MAY



on Wednesday 5 May 2010  
at 7.30 pm

IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL



**FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**

**Voluntary retiring donations in aid of  
The School Musical Instrument Fund**



# HELP HAITI

## Wear A Hat!



**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

*Help us to help them*

**Wear a hat of your choice**

*Give a pound*

No hats of a rude or sectarian nature

